

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the Final Office action mailed June 16, 2008. Claims 1, 5, 24, 43 and 58 are amended herewith. Claims 2-4, 6, 8-23, 25-31, 44-53, 57 and 59-63 are cancelled previously or herewith. New claims 64-68 are submitted herewith. Thus, claims 1, 5, 7, 24, 32-43, 54-56, 58 and 64-68 are pending. Applicants assert that the pending claims 1, 5, 7, 24, 32-43, 54-56, 58 and 64-68 are allowable. No new matter whatsoever has been introduced through the amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

Claims 1, 3, 7, 24, 43-45, 57 and 60 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,930,367 ("Lutz").

Claims 58 and 61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lutz.

The particular rejections to the claims are now moot in view of the amendments submitted herewith and the Office's indication of Allowable Subject Matter as reiterated below.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4, 5, 28, 46-47, 59, 62 and 63 are objected to as being dependant from respectively rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the respective base claim and any intervening claims (Page 5 of Office action). Claims 32-42 and 54-56 are allowed (Page 5 of Office action).

Applicants agree with the Examiner's conclusions regarding patentability, without necessarily agreeing with or acquiescing in the Examiner's reasoning. In particular, Applicants believe that the application is allowable because the prior art fails to teach, anticipate, or render obvious the invention as claimed, independent of how the invention is paraphrased.

Claim 1 has been amended and, as amended, includes all of the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable claim 2. Thus, claim 1, as amended, is equivalent to claim 2 rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 1, as amended, is allowable.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and is also allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from an allowable base claim.

Claim 24 has been amended and, as amended, includes all of the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable claim 28. Thus, claim 24, as amended, is equivalent to claim 28 rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 24, as amended, is allowable.

Claims 32-42 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

Claim 43 has been amended and, as amended, includes all of the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable claim 46. Thus, claim 43, as amended, is equivalent to claim 46 rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claim 43, as amended, is allowable.

Claims 54-56 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

New Claim 64 includes all of the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable claim 4. Thus, new claim 64 is equivalent to claim 4 rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, new claim 64 is allowable.

Claim 5 depends from claim 64 and is also allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from an allowable base claim.

New Claim 65 includes all of the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable claim 59. Thus, new claim 65 is equivalent to claim 59 rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, new claim 65 is allowable.

Claim 58 depends from new claim 65 and is also allowable at least by virtue of its dependence from an allowable base claim.

New Claim 66 includes all of the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable claim 62. Thus, new claim 66 is equivalent to claim 62 rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, new claim 66 is allowable.

New Claim 67 includes all of the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable claim 63. Thus, new claim 67 is equivalent to claim 63 rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, new claim 67 is allowable.

New Claim 68 includes all of the subject matter of objected to but otherwise allowable claim 47. Thus, new claim 68 is equivalent to claim 47 rewritten in independent form and including all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, new claim 68 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1, 5, 7, 24, 32-43, 54-56, 58 and 64-68 are in condition for allowance and requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of all pending claims.

Any inquiry regarding this Amendment and Response should be directed to either Thi Dang at Telephone No. (858) 655-8519, or Scott K. Gallert at Telephone No. (360) 212-4903. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

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